



SB880 – Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2022

Testimony before Senate Finance Committee

March 9, 2022

Position: Favorable

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to support SB880, to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Waldstreicher for sponsoring this bill.

Many Marylanders need to walk or bike to get to jobs, stores, public transportation, places of worship, medical visits, and to see friends and family. Walking and biking is also a great option because it is beneficial for health and reduces reliance on fossil fuels. However, we need walking and biking to be safe. Sadly, pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities have risen in recent years. This bill invests in infrastructure to make walking and bicycling safer, and it will have the State Highway Administration study the needs in Maryland.

I make about 15% of my commutes to work by bicycle, and I shop and do errands on foot or bike when possible. The addition of bike lanes in my area has encouraged me to use my bicycle more. My colleagues have mentioned that their concerns about safety stop them from bicycling to work. Improving safety will get more people to replace car trips with walking and biking.

This legislation will save lives and promote health and the environment. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**

Ruth Auerbach
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